

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for enabling management of contacts, the method comprising:

maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;

enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;

in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member;

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities;

enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the member of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts;

receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

in response to receiving the indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts, and

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; and

sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the member to send a copy of the group of contacts to a recipient.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
receiving a request from the member or the recipient to modify the group; and
updating copies of the group held by the member and the recipient to reflect the requested change.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising notifying the member and the recipient of the requested change to the group.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier

by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use e-mail or at least one communication modality other than e-mail to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting e-mail or the at least one communication modality other than email to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use instant messaging or at least one communication modality other than instant messaging to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting instant messaging or the at least one communication modality other than instant messaging to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use digital image sharing or at least one communication modality other than digital image sharing to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting digital image sharing or the at least one communication modality other than digital image sharing to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use an alerting modality that sends alerts and reminders to users or at least one communication modality other than the alerting modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the alerting modality or the at least one communication modality other than the alerting modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use a modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein enabling the member to use a modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one communication modality other than the modality for

sharing and exchanging contact information to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, an electronic journal modality, or at least one modality other than the electronic journal modality by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the electronic journal modality, or the at least one modality other than the electronic journal modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, an e-mail filtering modality, or at least one modality other than the e-mail filtering modality by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact

information, the e-mail filtering application, or the at least one modality other than the e-mail filtering application to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, a modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account, or at least one modality other than the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account, or the at least one modality other than the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

15-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes:

recognizing that an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent using the particular communication modality selected by the member is not known for a particular contact within the group of contacts; and

prompting the member for an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent to the particular contact using the particular communication modality selected by the member.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes:

recognizing that an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent using the particular communication modality selected by the member is not known for a particular contact within the group of contacts; and

omitting the contact from the group of contacts for the purpose of sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts includes enabling the member to use a graphical user interface to specify contacts from the collection of contacts to be included in the group of contacts; and

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier includes:

enabling the member to provide a name for the group of contacts, and

representing the group of contacts with the name provided by the member for the group of contacts.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling a member to define a group contacts from among the collection of contacts comprises:

recognizing a set of contacts from the collection of contacts as repeated recipients of communications sent by the member; and

enabling the member to define a group containing the set of contacts without actively specifying the set of contacts.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing communications sent by the member during a period of time;

examining the communications sent by the member during the period of time; and

identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications by the member during the period of time.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein storing and examining communications sent by the member during a period of time comprises storing and examining communications sent by the member using multiple different applications.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing a predetermined number of communications sent by the member;

examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member; and

identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications out of the predetermined number of communications by the member.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein storing and examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member comprises storing and examining communications sent by the member using multiple different applications.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier includes:

enabling the member to provide a name for the group of contacts; and

representing the group of contacts with the name provided by the member for the group of contacts.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein permissions and preferences of all contacts in the group are the same.

29. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising a tangible computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;

enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;

in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member;

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities;

enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different

communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the member of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts;

receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

in response to receiving the indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts, and

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; and

sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member.

30. (Previously presented) A system for enabling management of contacts comprising:

means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;

means for enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;

means for creating the group of contacts defined by the member in response to the member defining the group of contacts;

means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities;

means for enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

means for receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts;

means for receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

means for determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts;

means for determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; and

means for sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different

communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
enabling another member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;
receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the other member of a different communication modality to use to send a different communication to the group of contacts;
receiving an indication that the other member has specified that the different communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group is represented;
in response to receiving the indication that the other member has specified that the different communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the different communication modality that the other member has selected to use to send the different communication to the group of contacts, and

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member; and
sending the different communication to the group of contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the different communication modality selected by the other member.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the particular communication modality is e-mail and the different communication modality is instant messaging such that:

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using e-mail;

sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member includes sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using e-mail by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using e-mail;

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member includes determining, for individual

contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using instant messaging; and

sending the different communication to the group of contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the different communication modality selected by the other member includes sending the different communication to the group of contacts using instant messaging by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using instant messaging.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein:

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group is represented include instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the instructions that when executed by a machine result in maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein:

the means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises means for representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

the means for enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to includes means for enabling the member to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises means for creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

40. (New) A method for enabling communications to be sent to multiple contacts, the method comprising:

accessing, from within an electronic storage, a collection of contacts;

enabling user identification of a subset of less than all of the collection of contacts;

enabling the user to associate an alias with the subset of contacts for later use in referencing the identified subset of contacts;

subsequently enabling the user to specify the alias as a destination address for electronic communications that are to be sent to the subset of contacts using any of at least two different communication modalities;

processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at

least a first contact within the subset of contacts, sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality; and

processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a second one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a second contact within the subset of contacts, sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein:

processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a first contact within the subset of contacts, sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality includes processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using an instant messaging communication modality by, for at least the first contact, sending the first communication to the first contact using the instant messaging communication modality; and

processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a second one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a second contact within the subset of contacts, sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality includes processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using an email communication modality by, for at least the second contact, sending the second communication to the second contact using the email communication modality.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the first contact and the second contact are the same such that sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality and sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality includes sending the first and second communications to the same contact.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the first contact and the second contact are different such that sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality and sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality includes sending the first and second communications to different contacts.

44. (New) The method of claim 40 further comprising:
enabling user identification of another subset of less than all of the collection of contacts;
enabling the user to associate another alias with the other subset of contacts for later use in referencing the other subset of contacts;
subsequently enabling the user to specify the other alias as a destination address for electronic communications that are to be sent to the other subset of contacts using any of the at least two different communication modalities;
processing a third communication that specifies the other alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using the first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a third contact within the other subset of contacts, sending the third communication to the third contact using the first communication modality; and
processing a fourth communication that specifies the other alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using the second one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a fourth contact within the other subset of contacts, sending the fourth communication to the fourth contact using the second communication modality.